

the fact that he had noticed a number of Mallards (*Anas boschas*), some dead and others that appeared to be sick one day and a day or two later were found dead near the same place. Curiosity had led him to examine several, but he reported no signs of their ever having been wounded. I devoted half a day to a careful study of these singular conditions, with the result that my dog found two dead ducks and caught one that was too sick to fly away. Post-mortem examinations showed no wounds of any kind, but the three stomachs were well filled with duck shot, all evidently eaten by the birds by mistake for gravel. One stomach contained nineteen shot, one twenty-two, and the other twenty-seven. The large intestine was heavily leaded and seemed contracted, while the lining of the stomach could be easily scaled off in quite large crisp pieces. The gastric juices had evidently worked on the shot to some extent, as most of them were considerably worn and had taken various shapes. I found a number of remains of ducks that had recently been eaten by hawks or owls, but could not determine positively the cause of their death. A curious feature of the case is that all of the sick ducks found or reported were Mallards.

Has such a condition of affairs ever before been reported? If so, I should greatly like to know what the future results are apt to be.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Wash.*

Capture of the Flamingo at Lake Worth, Fla.—A full grown American Flamingo (*Phœnicopterus ruber*) with very handsome plumage was killed on Lake Worth, Dade County, Fla., in May, 1905. The bird was alone, standing in shallow water, off Shermans Point, and was shot with number four shot, at about thirty yards. It was early in the day, just after a severe storm, and the bird seemed to be dazed, for while I was wading to it, it did nothing but look about, as if about to fly. The specimen is mounted and in the collection of J. J. Ryman and Son, Palm Beach, Fla.—C. P. Ryman, *New York City.*

The Snowy Heron in South Carolina.—On May 15, 1908, while exploring certain marshes and sea-beaches in the interest of the Charleston Museum and of the State Audubon Society, I discovered two strong breeding colonies of the Snowy Heron (*Egretta candidissima*), a species which was believed to be almost if not absolutely extinct on the South Carolina coast. The birds are established on two small islands or 'hammocks' in the salt marshes which are probably at least ten miles distant from each other 'as the crow flies,' and which are being used as breeding places by hundreds of Louisiana, Little Blue, Green, and Black-crowned Night Herons. The total heron population of the smaller hammock, which has an area of about three acres, is estimated at about six hundred, of which probably between one hundred and one hundred and fifty are Snowy Herons; while the number of herons established on the larger island,

which has an area of about four acres, is probably not less than one thousand, the number of Snowy Herons here being estimated at about two hundred.

Hundreds of nests were found in the low 'sparkleberry' bushes, yuccas and palmettoes, but owing to the close similarity of the nests, eggs and downy young of the Snowy, Louisiana, and Little Blue Herons, I was unable to determine the number of Snowy Heron nests. Many of the nests which contained eggs or downy, yellowish white young probably belonged to the Snowy, though in only one instance — when I found a Snowy dead upon a nest with one unbroken egg beneath the lifeless body — could I be sure that any particular nest was not the property of a pair of Louisianas or Little Blues. It is surprising, moreover, that we found no Snowy Herons among the nestlings which had passed beyond the downy stage. The only possible explanation seems to be that the young Louisianas and Little Blues were further advanced than the young Snowies and that the latter had not yet begun to acquire feathers at the time of my last visit on May 29. This view is supported by the fact that the testes of three adult males collected on that date for the Charleston Museum and for Mr. A. T. Wayne were very large — as I am informed by Mr. Wayne who prepared the specimens.

The Museum is taking definite measures in coöperation with the South Carolina Audubon Society to ensure the protection of these colonies. The problem of safeguarding these two little islands should not be a difficult one; and there seems to be good reason to hope that the Snowy Heron will succeed in reëstablishing itself along this coast.— HERBERT R. SASS, *The Charleston Museum, Charleston, S. C.*

The Black-crowned Night Heron in Washtenaw County, Mich.—The Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*), although locally common south of the 42d parallel, is of rare occurrence, if one is to judge from the data at hand, in this county (Washtenaw). For that reason a statement regarding recent observations on and the capture of a specimen at Ann Arbor, Mich., will, it is believed, prove at least of interest to students of Michigan ornithology.

Previous to the appearance of the species here this spring but three authentic records were known for the county, although other specimens may have been taken by hunters and parties not in touch with students of bird-life. A brief summary of these records is as follows:— On April 30, 1882, Prof. E. D. Campbell of the University of Michigan found the species in a bit of swampy ground known locally as 'The Overflow Region,' about two and one half miles east of Ann Arbor. On June 27, 1893, Mr. P. A. Taverner noted one, apparently an immature bird, at Four Mile Lake, some four or five miles west of this city; and on April 30, 1894, observed it again in the same locality as that in which Prof. Campbell found it. Up to 1908 the above records were the only ones known to the University Museum Staff, for this County.